

*E*ditorial

Twenty years have passed since the Japanese Society for Neuroendovascular Therapy was founded in 1982. During that period the neuroendovascular therapy has been achieved the rapid growth by the physician's effort and it has become widespread in our country.

It was a great honor and a privilege for me to hold the 19th annual meeting as president. The main theme of the 19th annual meeting was debate between vascular surgeons and endovascular physicians. In main auditorium program was composed of five symposiums, three oral sessions and one special lecture. Six luncheon seminars, two satellite sessions and poster session were added.

In symposium on AVM, surgery, radiosurgery and embolization have important roles in treatment. Surgery is still a predominant curative procedure. Each modality has limit to treat the patients completely. Combining these therapeutic modalities is valuable for difficult and complex cases. In symposium on carotid artery stenosis, stenting has made a remarkable progress and results are promising. Whereas carotid stenting is not approved by the government in our country, number of cases is rapidly growing. In addition, new devices are introduced one after another. For example, embolic complication, which is solely a disadvantage compared with endarterectomy, has been resolved with protection devices. Carotid stenting is overwhelming surgery and few skillful vascular surgeons are willing to accept endovascular therapy. In symposium on subarachnoid haemorrhage, coil embolization is introduced in many neurosurgical institutions since results of the international randomized control trial were reported. In non-ruptured aneurysm symposium, indication of either surgical or endovascular treatment was controversial. Natural history of intact aneurysms was focused on, while the nation wide study is on going in Japan. Last symposium was regarding with difficult aneurysm treatment. Experimental works and clinical trials on new devices and materials were presented, suggesting further development of endovascular technique for cerebral aneurysms.

One of the main topics in this meeting was Charles Drake Memorial Lectureship. The author received neurosurgical training under Dr Drake in 1980's. At that time endovascular surgery just started. Detachable balloon technique was only curative procedure for neurosurgical patients. Dr Drake suggested future development of neurointervention and insisted on aggressive effort to promote this technique. The author had been inspired to develop endovascular treatment in neurosurgery in our country. Unfortunately he expired before GDC treatment flourished. Dr Drake was one of the greatest surgeons in the world and only one surgeon who appreciated neurointervention and was aware of the importance of it. This lectureship was dedicated to him for his great heritage for us.

Seven distinguished guests joined the meeting from all over the world. Dr Hopkins (SUNY, Buffalo, USA) gave us a special lecture of carotid stenting up-to-date. Dr Wakhloo (U of Miami, USA) presented at symposium on large-giant aneurysms. Prof. Leonardi (U of Bologna, Italy) gave us a lecture on endovascular complications at the evening seminar. Dr Viñuela (UCLA, USA) gave us a historical overview at Charles Drake Memorial Lectureship. Dr Lylyk (ENERI, Argentina) presented his enormous experiences with difficult aneurysm cases in symposium. Dr Redekop (U of British Columbia, Canada) joined Charles Drake Memorial Lectureship as Dr Drake's last resident. Prof. Molyneux (Radcriff Infirmary, GB) gave us a lecture on ISAT at symposium on subarachnoid haemorrhage.

I want to thank each participant, oversea and domestic guest speakers, sponsors and those who supported the meeting. The 19th meeting was fruitful and successful much more than expected. About 1000 physicians joined this meeting, and most of them are neurosurgeons. The number of participants to the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Neuroendovascular Therapy has been increasing over the past years. It suggests that neurointervention has become a major part of the neurosurgery. This society is expanding continuously without limits for 2004 and beyond.

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Shigeru Nemoto, M.D.

19th President of the Japanese Society
for Neuroendovascular Therapy